

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 03 December 2018

Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection Policy and Resources
Subject:	Review of Hackney Carriage Fares
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regulation
Corporate Priorities:	Strong, safe, inclusive and healthy communities

Purpose:
To set the level of Hackney Carriage Tariff for licensed vehicles in the Borough.

Executive summary:

Each year the views of the taxi trade are sought in respect of whether they wish the Council to consider an increase to the taxi tariff. This year the taxi trade indicated they would like to see the tariff increased.

This matter was considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs committee at its meeting of 18 September 2018.

The setting of the tariff is, however, an Executive function and therefore when a request for a change is received the Executive must determine the appropriate level of tariff.

It is recommended therefore that the tariff be increased as detailed in the recommendation below.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Executive agrees, in the absence of objection following publication, to amend the current Hackney Carriage tariff so that:

- (a) there is a pull off charge of £2.40 for the first 180 metres (or part thereof) with a charge of 20p for each succeeding 180 metres (or part thereafter);
- (b) there is a charge of 20p for each period of 55 seconds waiting time (or part thereof); and
- (c) Easter Sunday from 06:00 hours until 23:30 hours be charged at Rate 2.

Reason:

The majority of the responses from the taxi trade, individual drivers and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee, are in favour of an increase this year.

Cost of proposals:

Advertising change to tariff in local press.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Revised comparison table with other Hampshire Authorities' tariffs

Appendix B: Current tariff

Background papers: None

Reference papers: Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Committee Report - Review of Hackney Carriage Fares 18 September 2018

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	03 December 2018
Subject:	Review of Hackney Carriage Fares
Briefing by:	Director of Planning and Regulation
Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection

INTRODUCTION

1. Each year the views of the taxi trade are sought in respect of whether they wish the Council to consider an increase to the taxi tariff. In a lot of other Authorities, it is left up to the trade to approach the Council when they require a change. Most tariffs do not change annually, the tariffs of Havant and Eastleigh for example were last reviewed in 2015
2. In July this year a letter was sent to the taxi trade to consult upon the taxi tariff. The Council received 24 responses of which 15 were requesting a change. There are currently 200 Hackney Carriage vehicles licensed in the Borough, 155 licensed Hackney Carriage drivers and 206 Dual Licensed Drivers. In addition, on 3rd July 2018 we received an email from the Secretary of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Association regarding a vote the Hackney Carriage Association had taken in regard to a tariff increase. The result was that 93 written votes were received with 26 voting for no increase and 67 voting for an increase.
3. The responses received in response to the newsletter are detailed in a report presented at the meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee held on the 18 September 2018.
4. Having considered the report and the responses received from individuals and the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Association in respect of changes to the tariff, it was resolved that the Committee recommended that the Executive approves the changes requested by the Hackney Carriage Association.
5. Following the recommendation made by the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee, some further work was undertaken and a revised comparison table with other Hampshire Authorities' tariffs was compiled, to ensure the most up to date and accurate figures are available, this can be seen as Appendix A. This now shows a comparison with Havant and Eastleigh as well as the others that were originally shown. Overall the earlier recommendation would have made Fareham's tariff one of the more expensive in Hampshire.

6. In respect of the proposal from the Hackney Carriage Association, although the proposed increase showed an 8.3% increase overall on a six-mile journey, the 40 pence increase in the “pull-off” charge represents an 18% increase in that element. Overall this would make Fareham’s tariff one of the more expensive in Hampshire. A large number of shorter journeys would see that 18% element multiply upwards on top of this. It is recommended therefore that the tariff be increased by a more modest amount as below:-

- there is a pull off charge of £2.40 for the first 180 metres (or part thereof) with a charge of 20p for each succeeding 180 metres (or part thereafter);

(This represents an increase to the pull off charge of an additional 20p and a change in the succeeding 20p charges from every 190 metres to 180 metres).

- there is a charge of 20p for each period of 55 seconds waiting time (or part thereof); and

(This represents a reduction in 5 seconds from 60 to 55 when the 20p waiting time is added)

- Easter Sunday from 06:00 hours until 23:30 hours be charged at Rate 2.

(This is an increase from rate 1 to rate 2 for Easter Sunday)

The existing tariff is shown as Appendix B.

7. This represents a 6.65% increase on a 6-mile journey and a 9% increase on the pull off charge. This would be the first increase in the tariff for 10 years.

INDICES

Average Weekly Earnings in real terms (adjusted for consumer price inflation and seasonality), were reset in August 2015 to an index of 100 and have increased 1.5% since that date.

RPI All Items: Percentage change over 12 months:

3.2% 2018 Jul. Release date: 15 August 2018.

Consumer price inflation is currently at **2.5%**.

There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

8. Members are asked to consider the information contained in the report when making their decision in setting the level of Fareham Taxi Tariff and are recommended to approve the changes to the tariff shown below :-

- there is a pull off charge of £2.40 for the first 180 metres (or part thereof) with a charge of 20p for each succeeding 180 metres (or part thereafter);

- there is a charge of 20p for each period of 55 seconds waiting time (or part thereof); and

- Easter Sunday from 06:00 hours until 23:30 hours be charged at Rate 2.
9. Should the Executive agree to amend the tariff, a statutory consultation on that tariff must be undertaken. The proposed fare chart has to be published in a local newspaper and be available for inspection at the Council offices and the published notice must explain how objections can be made as well as the time period in which those representations can be made. The time period for objections must be at least 14 days from the first date of publication. If no objections are submitted the revised fare chart shall come into force at that time. If objections are made and not withdrawn then it will, come back for reconsideration of those objections. Timescales for reconsideration are tight, however, as any amended table must be adopted, after consideration of objections, within two months of the date it would otherwise have come into force had there been no objection. The decision, therefore, and as set out in the recommendation to this report, can be to adopt the new fare chart in the absence of objection (or if objection is made and withdrawn).

Enquiries: For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman (Ext 4473).